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SERIES

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THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!



SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG



SEGA



DIRECT EDITION



After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his polluted factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

KNOTHOLE
KINGDOM.

K

KODOS WAS
UNCONSCIOUS
OUTSIDE WHEN YOUR
STAFF FOUND HIM,
QUACK?

THE MESSENGER

KARL BOLLERS NELSON RIBEIRO PAM EKLUND & JIM AMASH JEFF POWELL FRANK GAGLIARDO

WRITER

PENCILS

INKERS

LETTERER

COLORIST

J.F. GABRIE - EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR

VICTOR GORELICK - MANAGING EDITOR

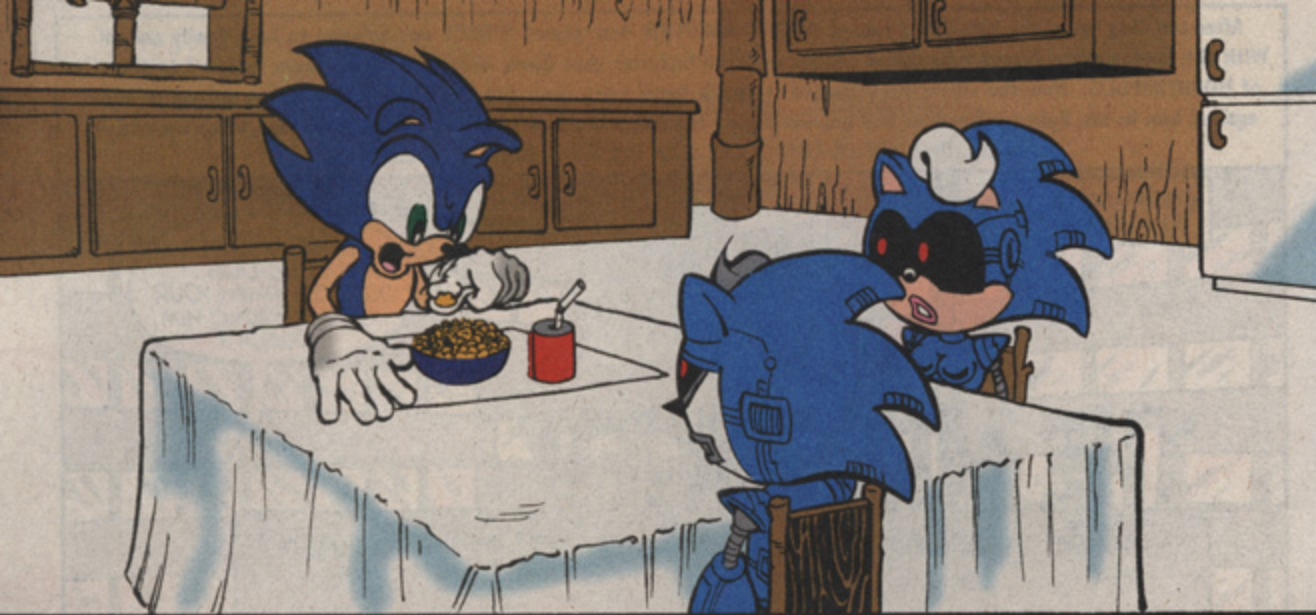
RICHARD GOLDWATER - EDITOR IN CHIEF

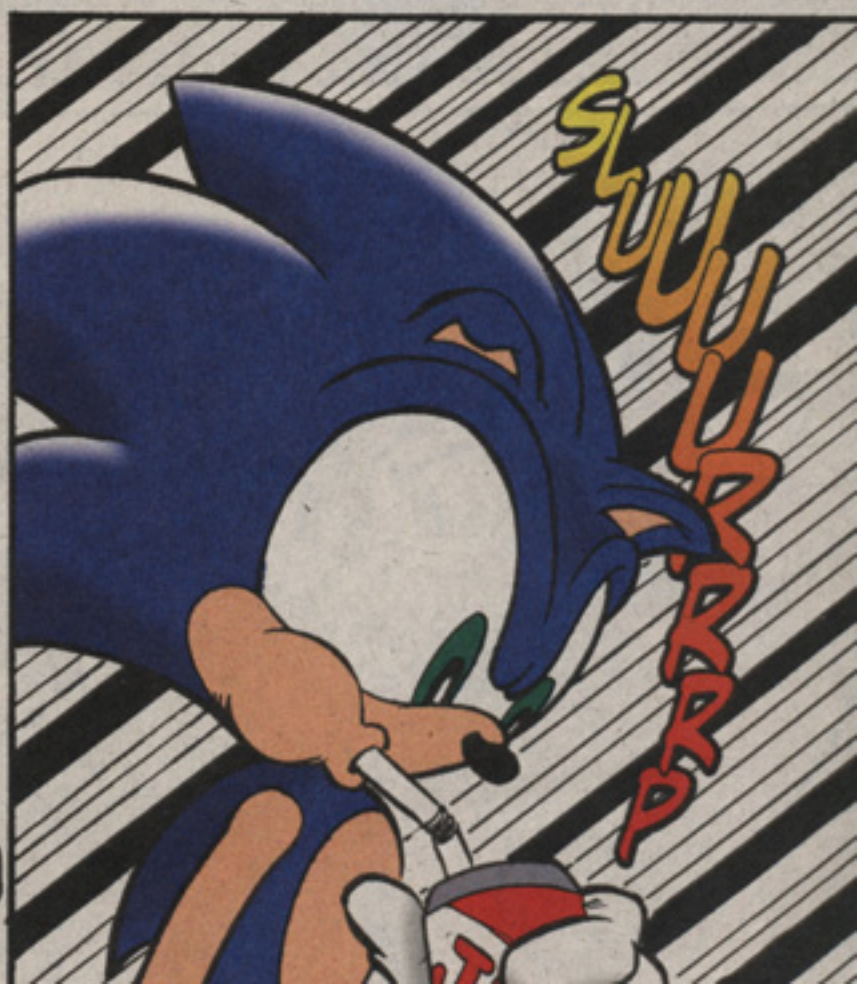
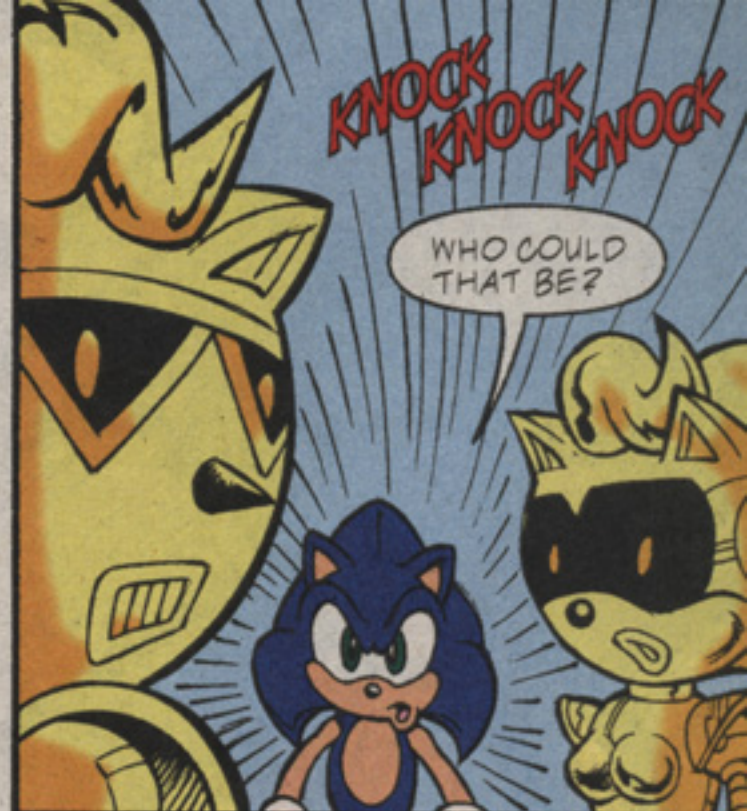
YES, AND SUFFERING
FROM RADIATION-POISONING--
IT'S AFFECTED HIM PHYSICALLY
AS WELL AS MENTALLY.

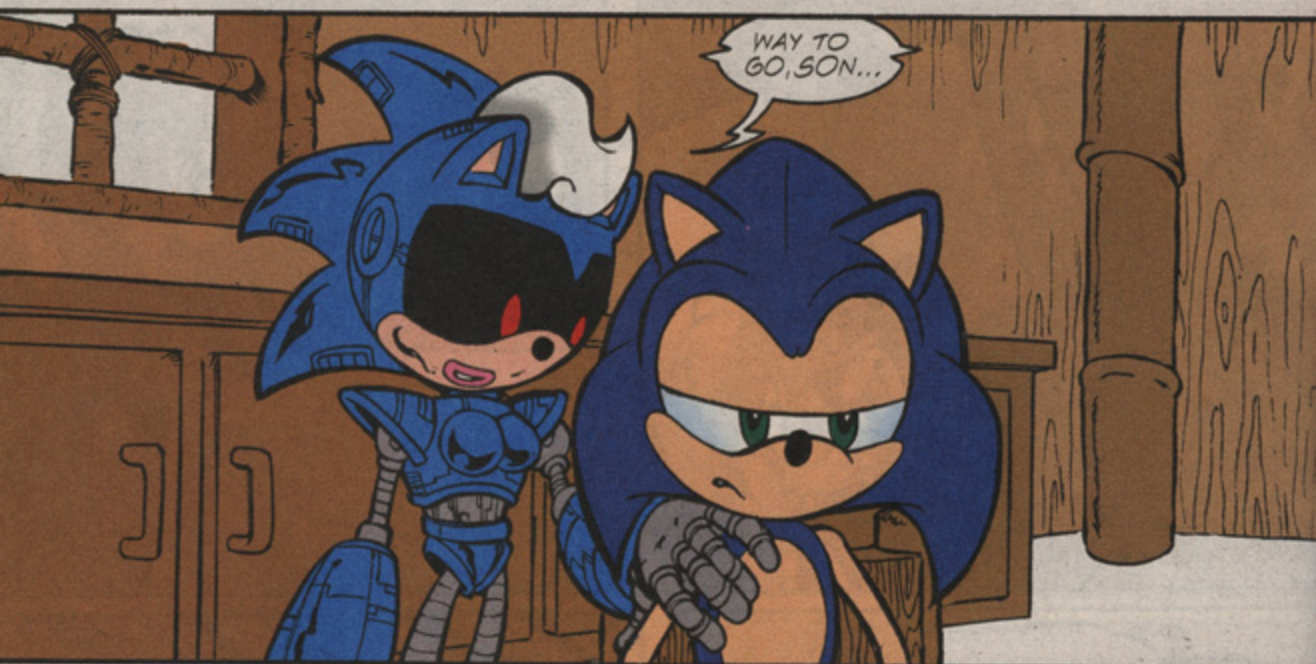
BUT HOW
DID HE GET
THERE?!

WELL, THAT'S WHY
I CALLED YOU, ST. JOHN--
IT'S A MYSTERY!

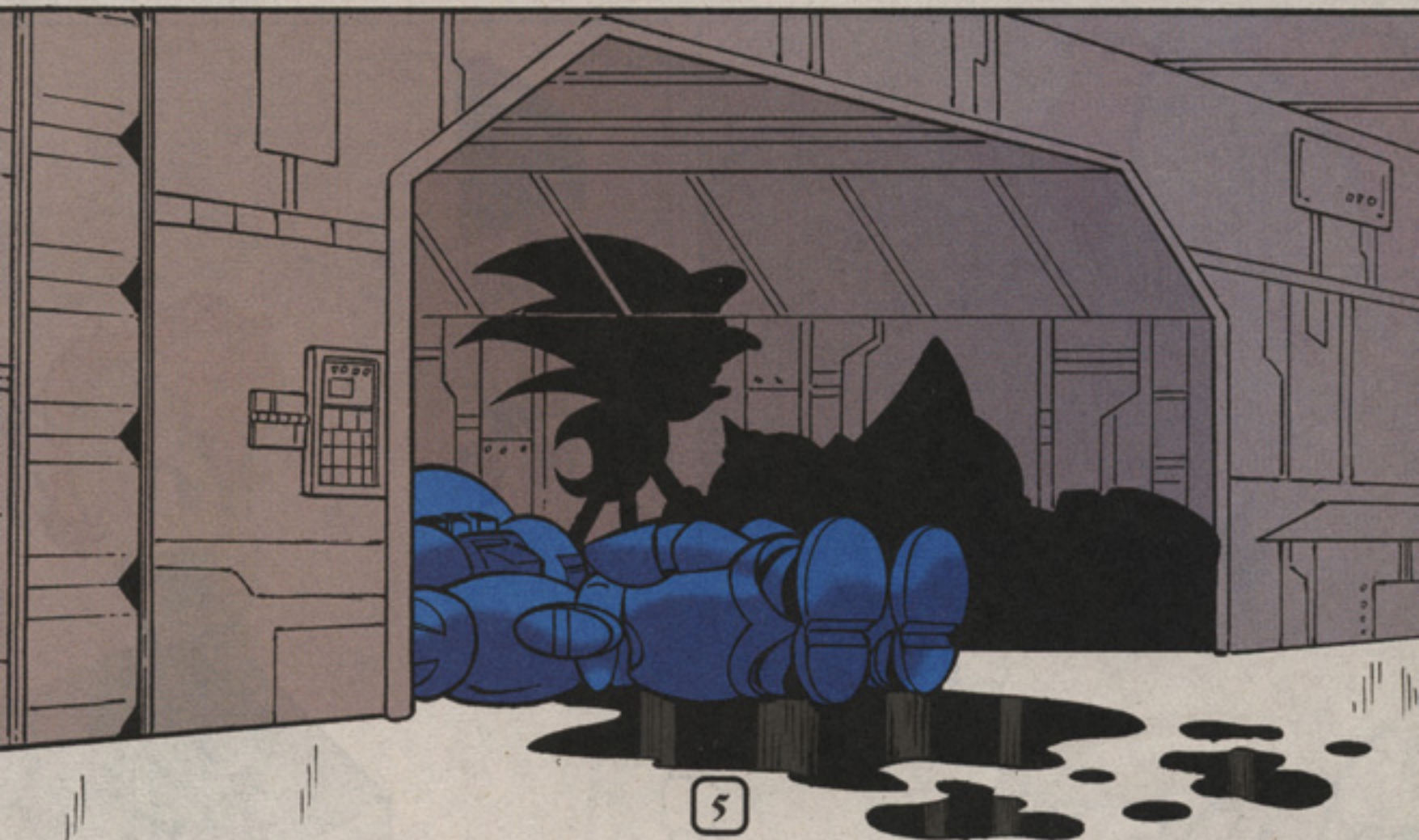
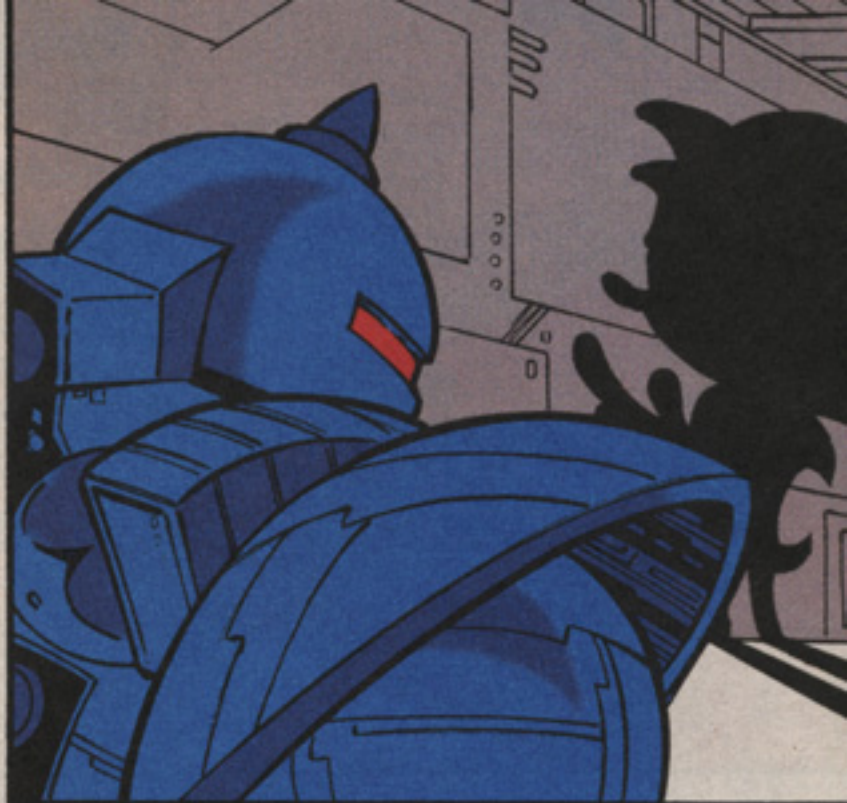
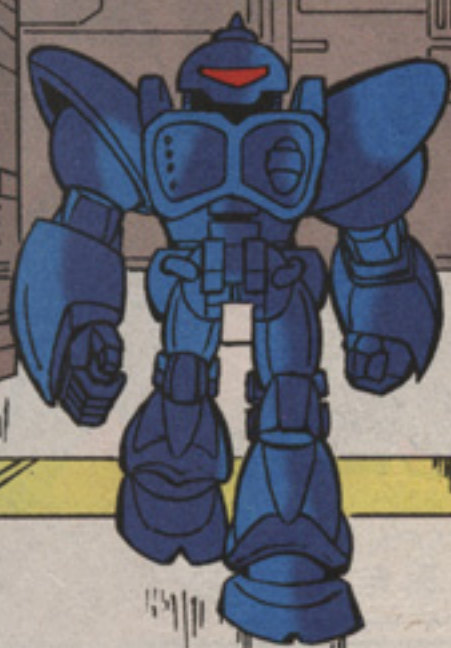
I CAN
THINK OF AT LEAST
ONE SUSPECT



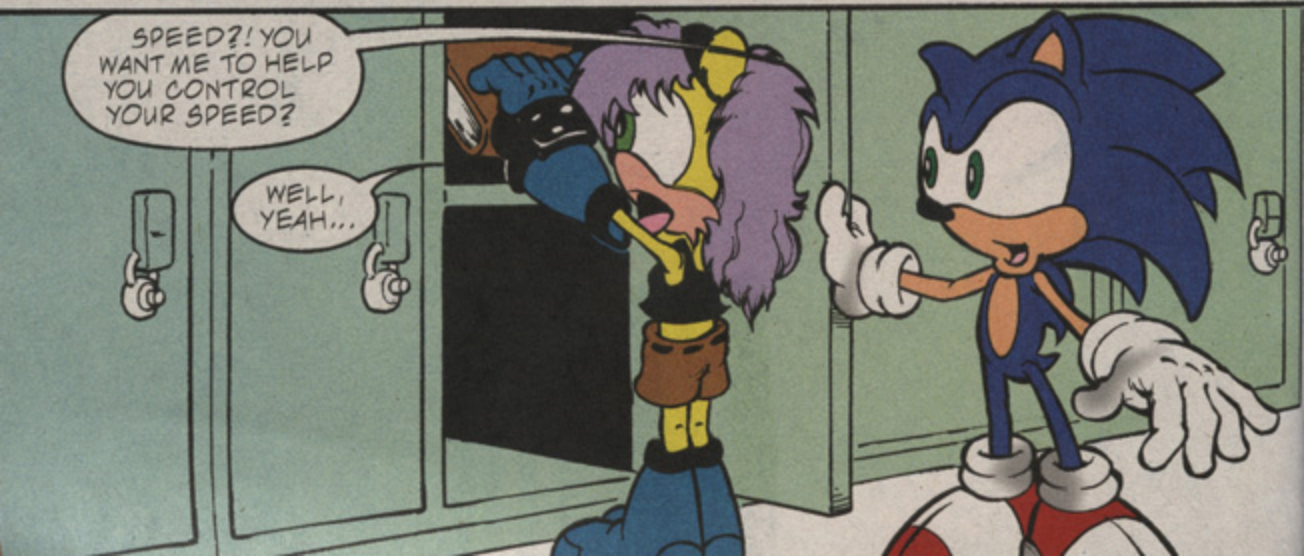
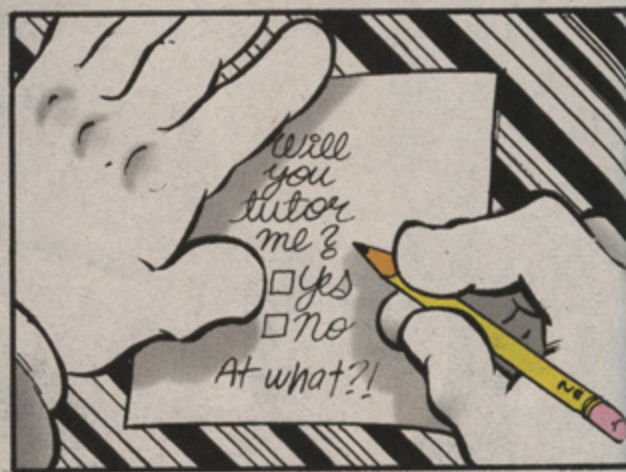
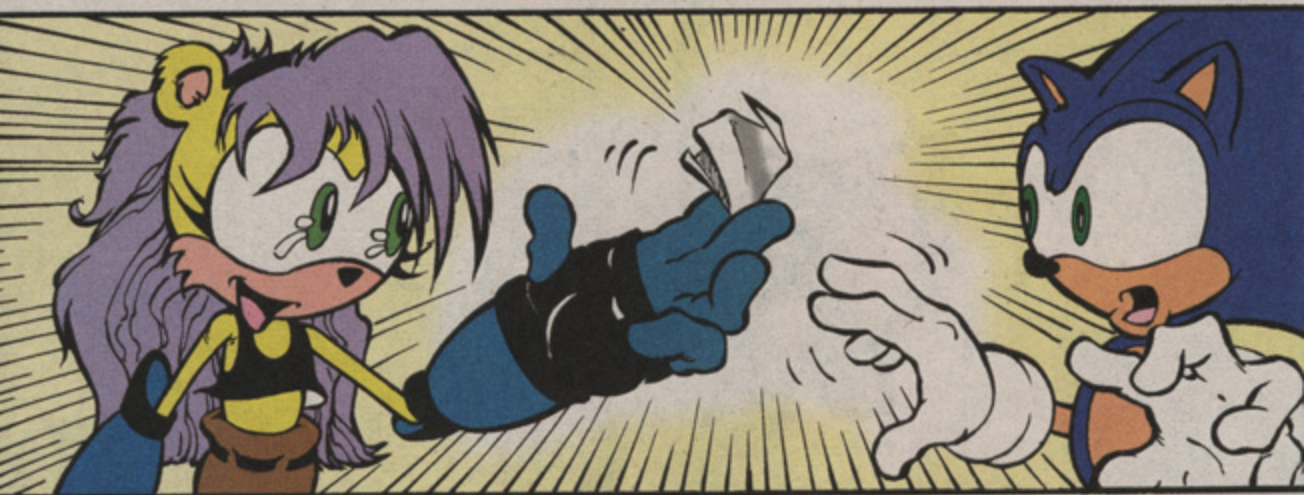
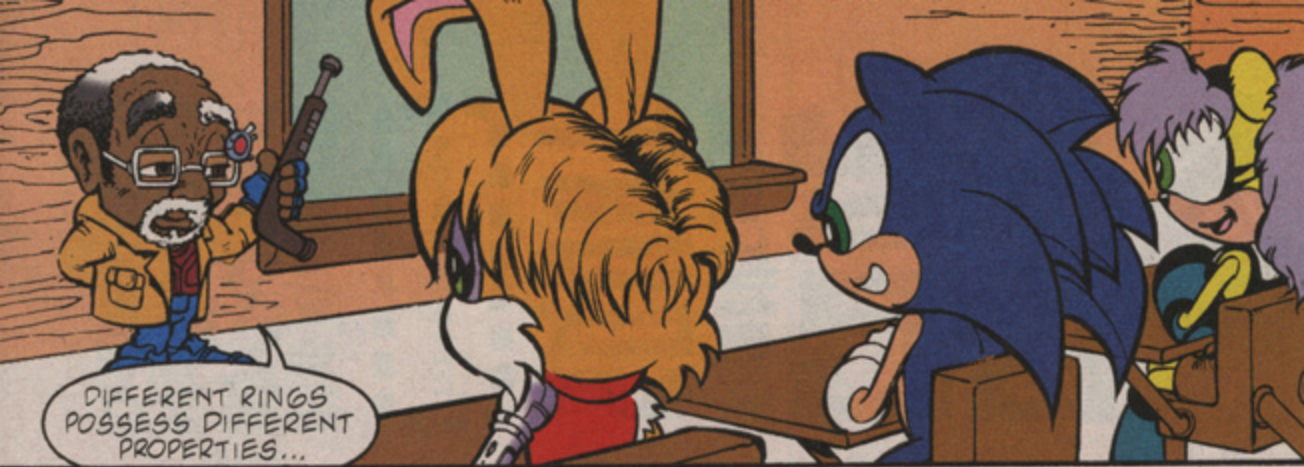




ROBOTNIK'S BASE...







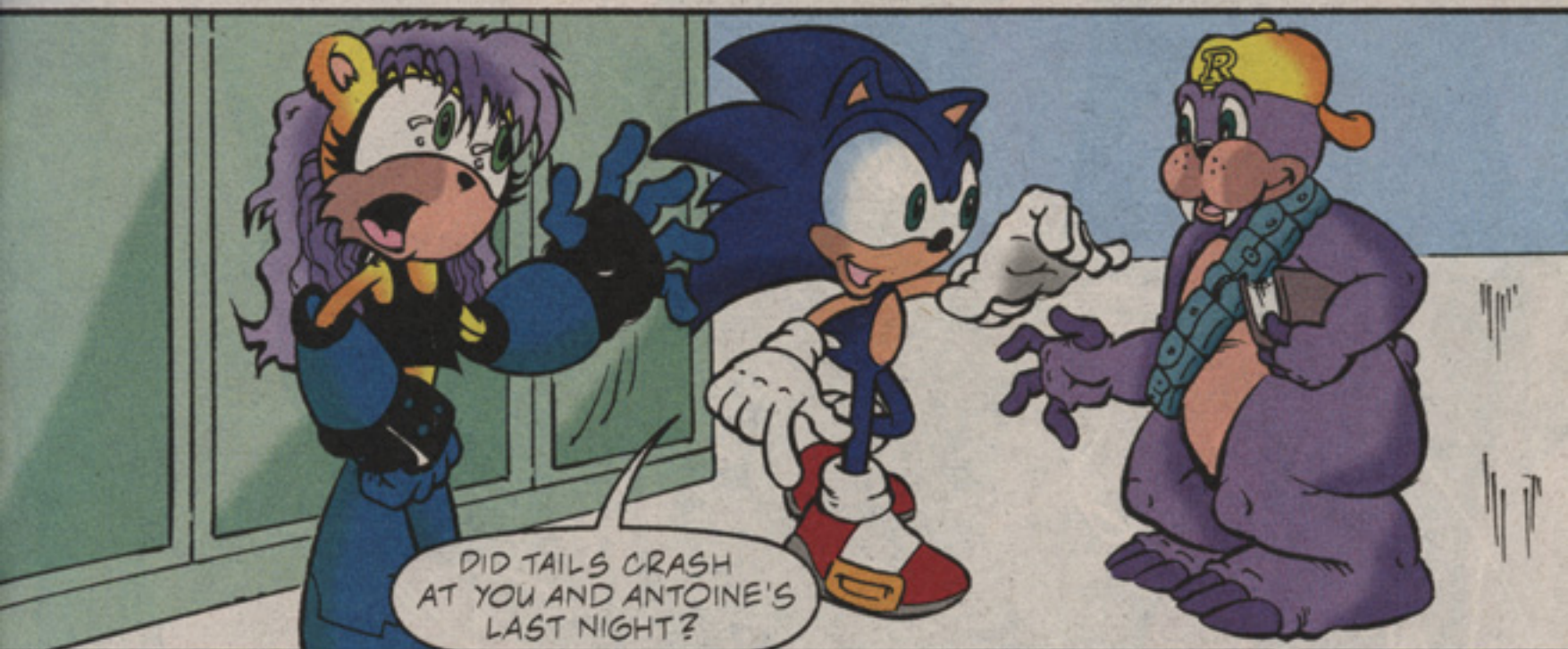


WHY DON'T YOU
JUST DO EVERYTHING
REALLY FAST?



SONIC!

S'UP
ROTOR?



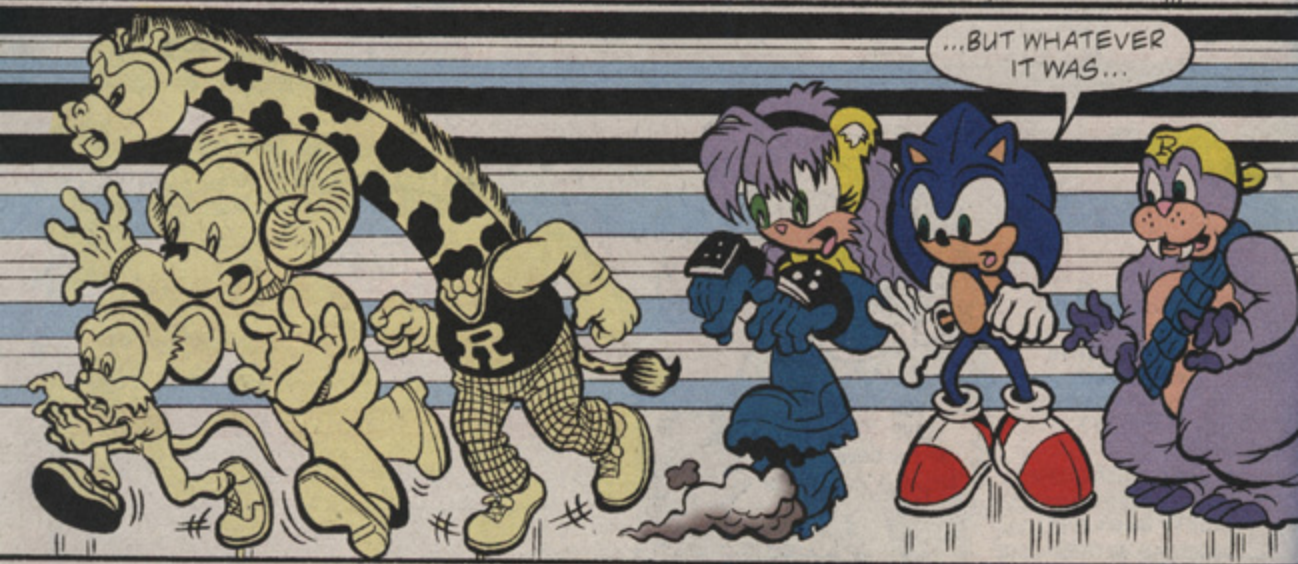
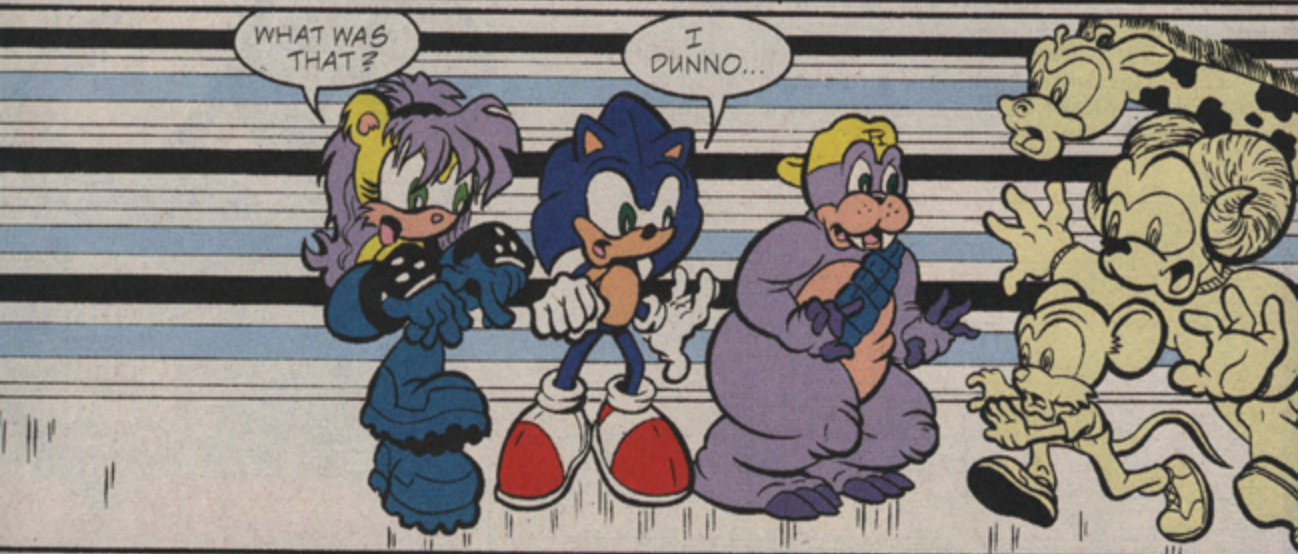
DID TAILS CRASH
AT YOU AND ANTOINE'S
LAST NIGHT?

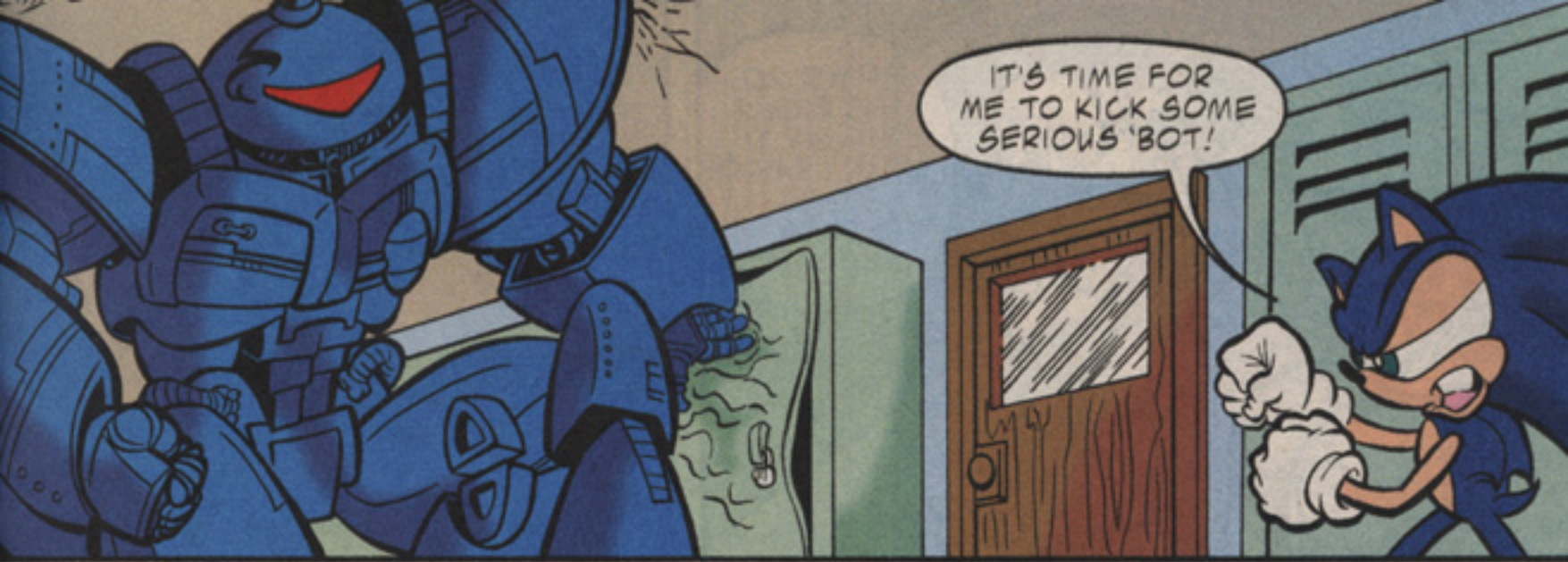


NOPE.
NEITHER DID
ANTOINE.



THIS IS GETTING
ME WORRIED--I HAVEN'T
SEEN THE L'IL GUY SINCE
YESTERDAY.



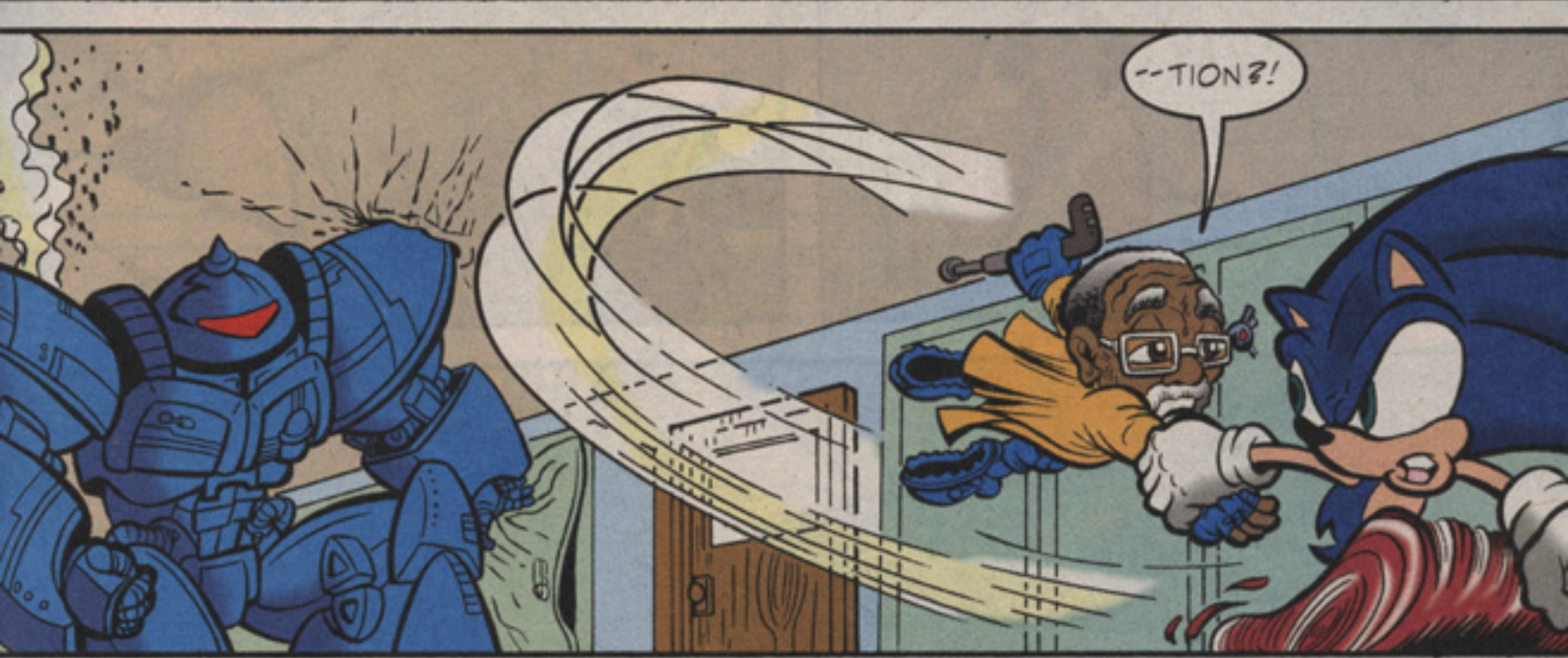


IT'S TIME FOR ME TO KICK SOME SERIOUS 'BOT!

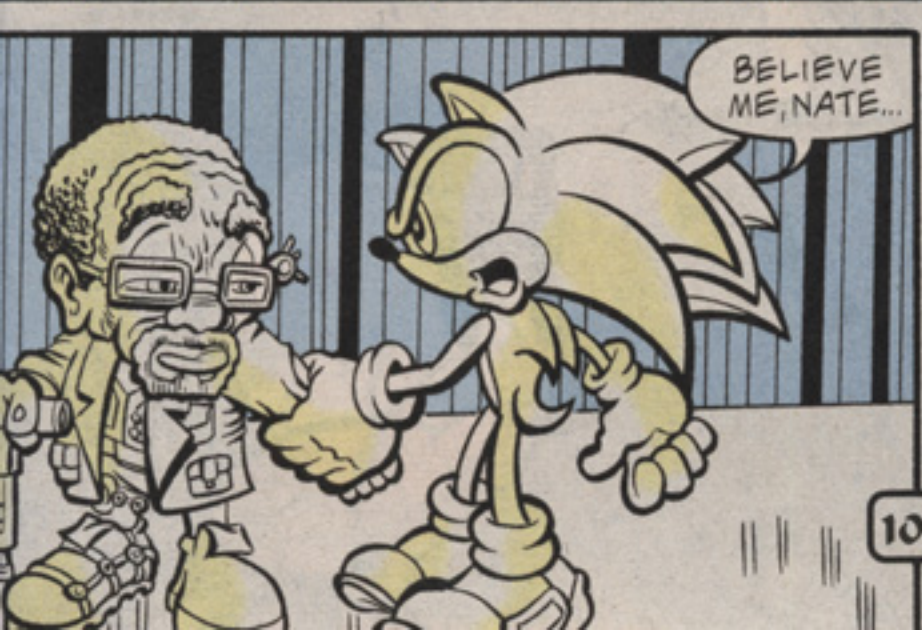


WHAT'S ALL THE COMMO--

!



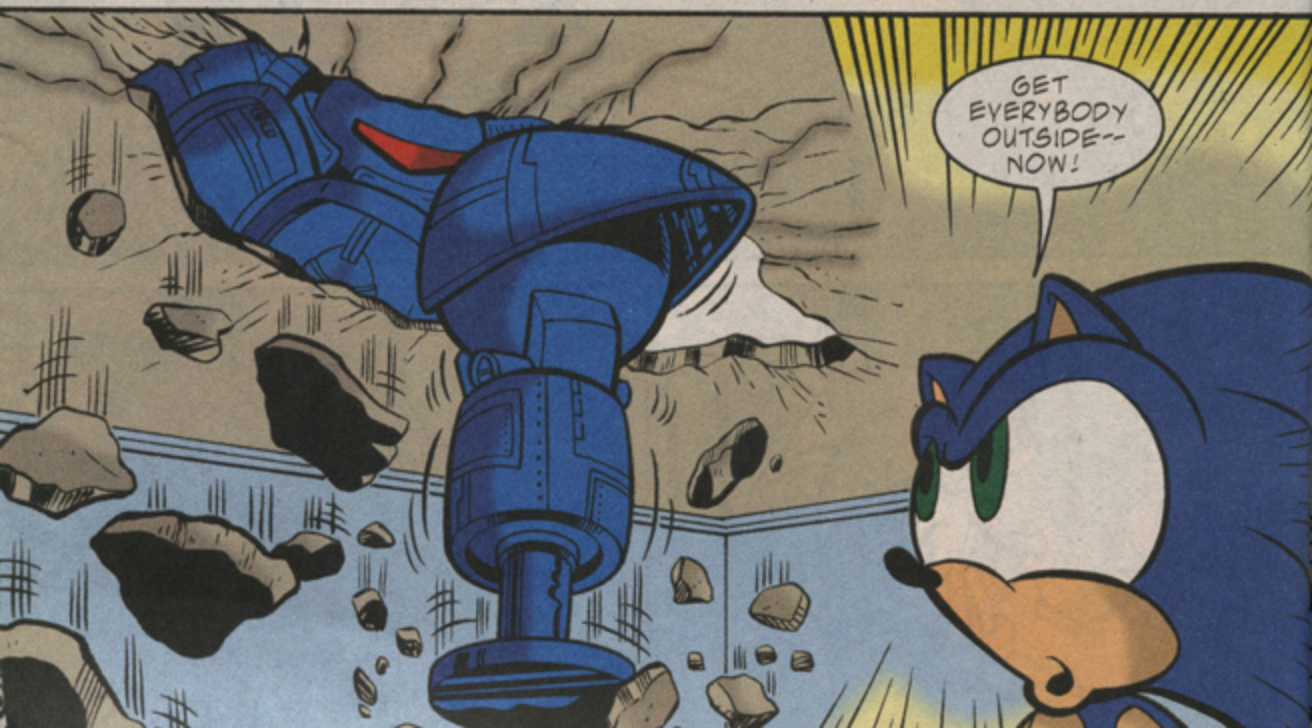
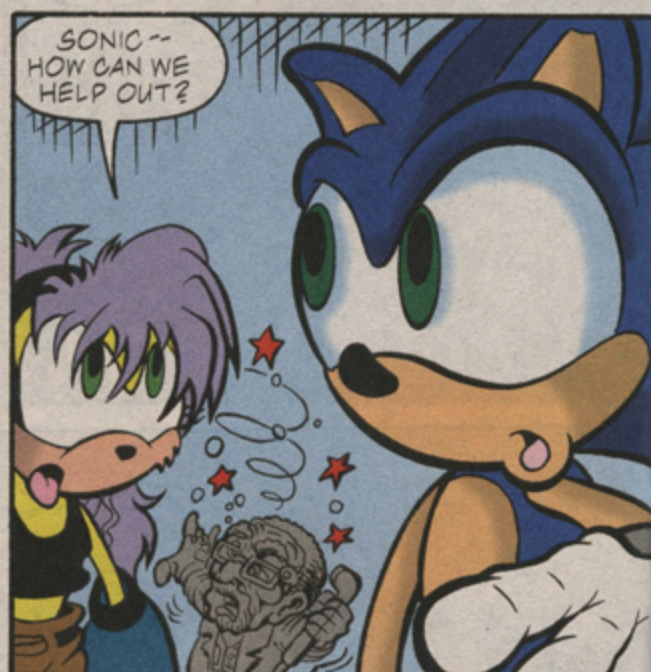
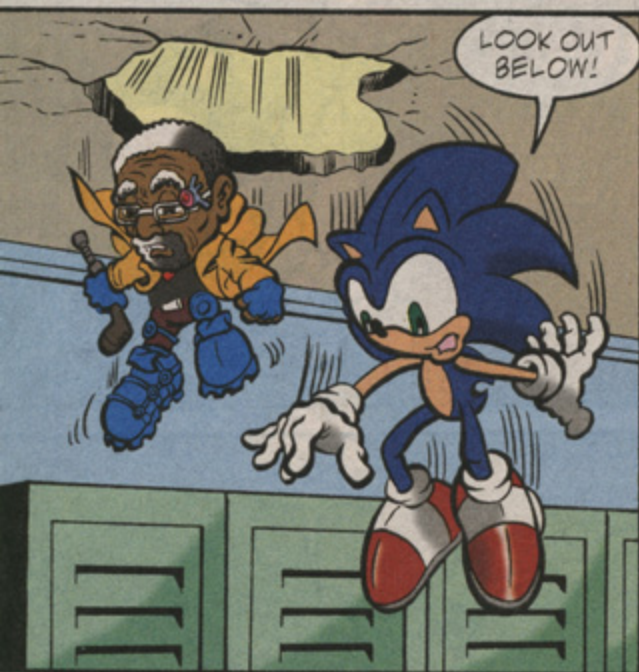
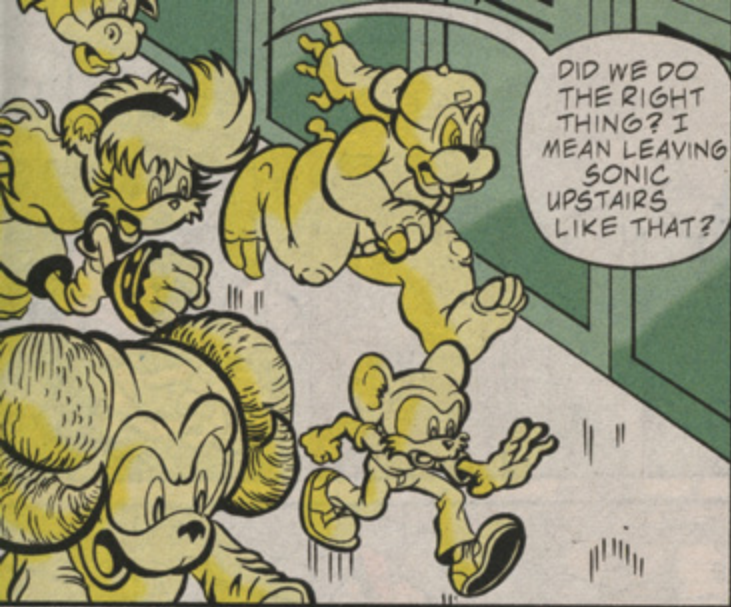
--TION?!

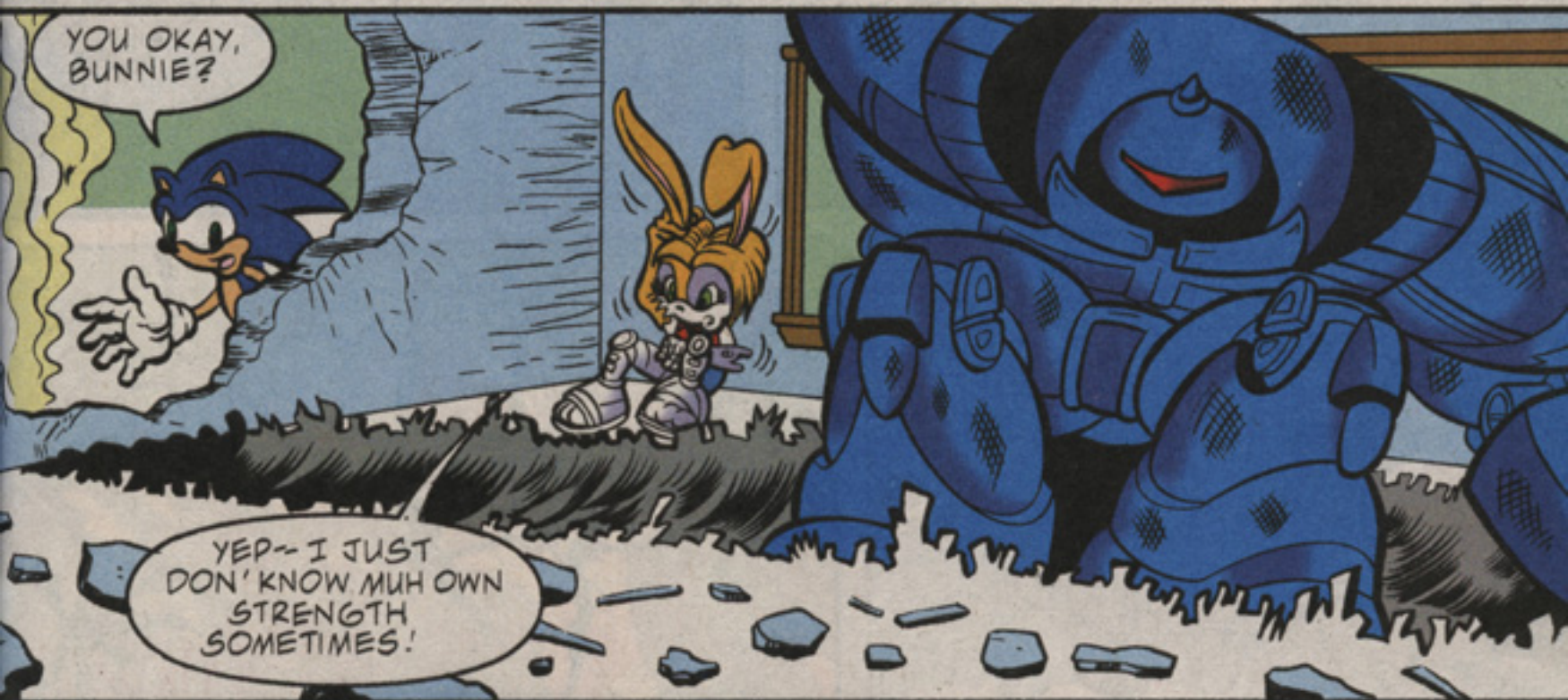
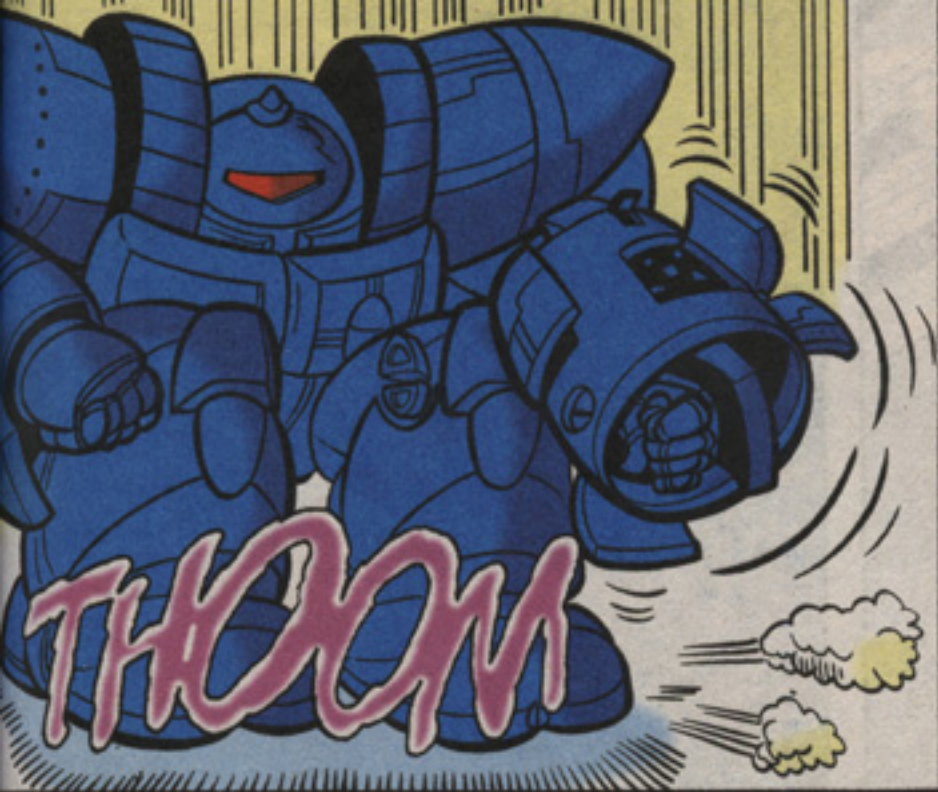


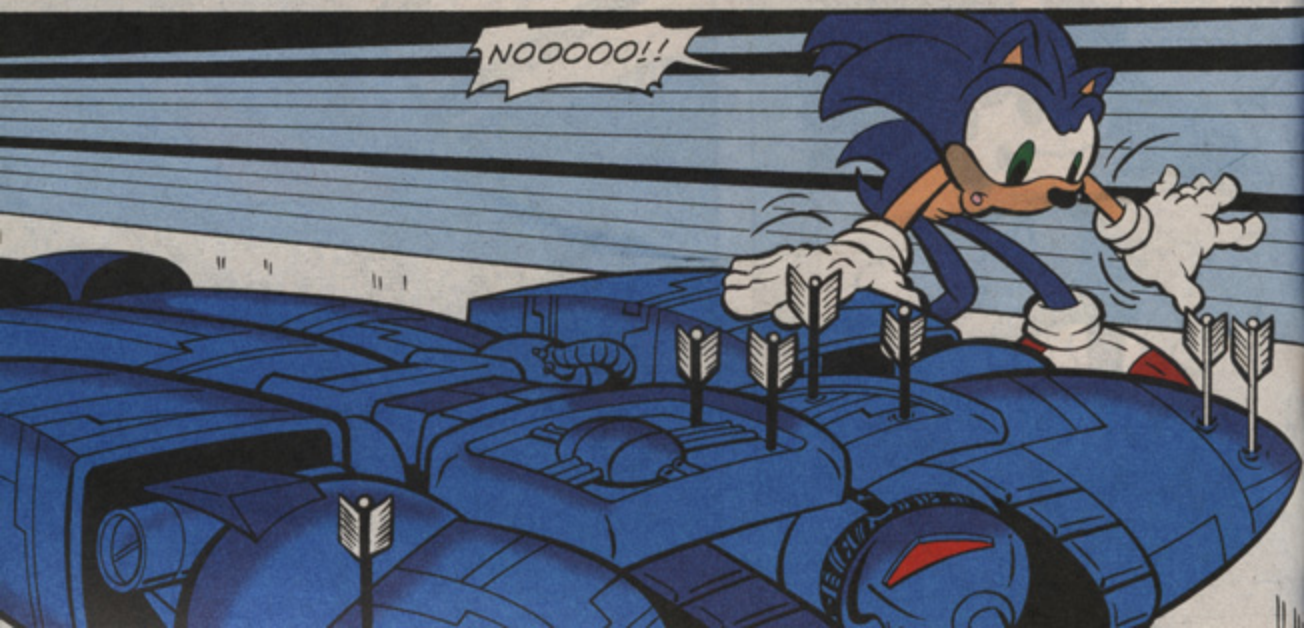
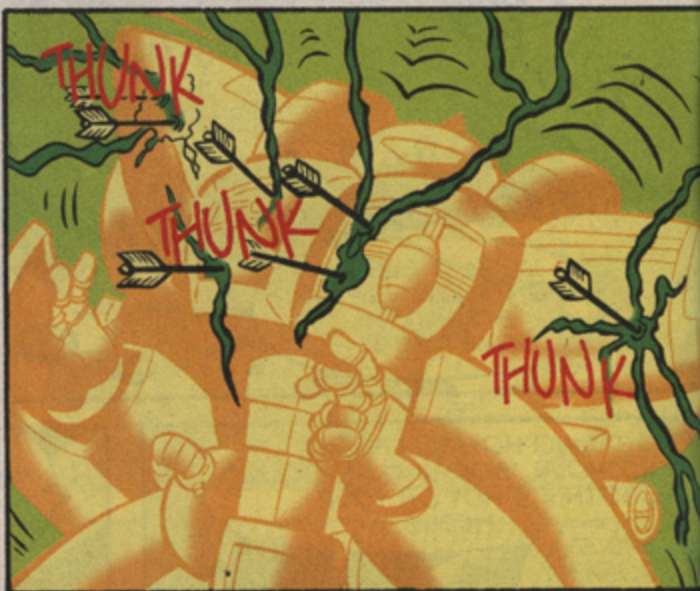
BELIEVE ME, NATE...

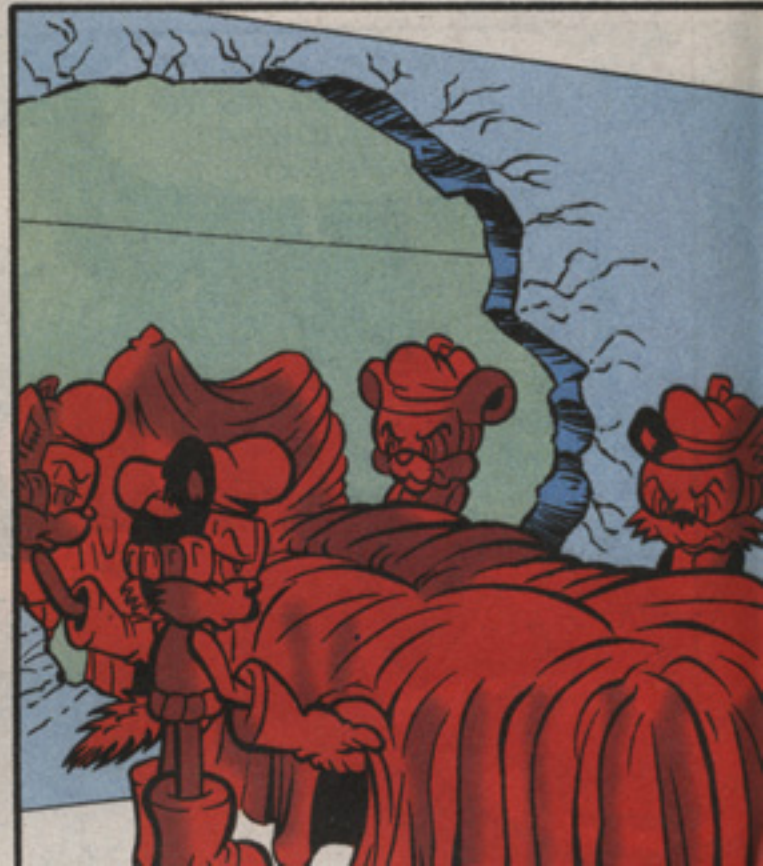
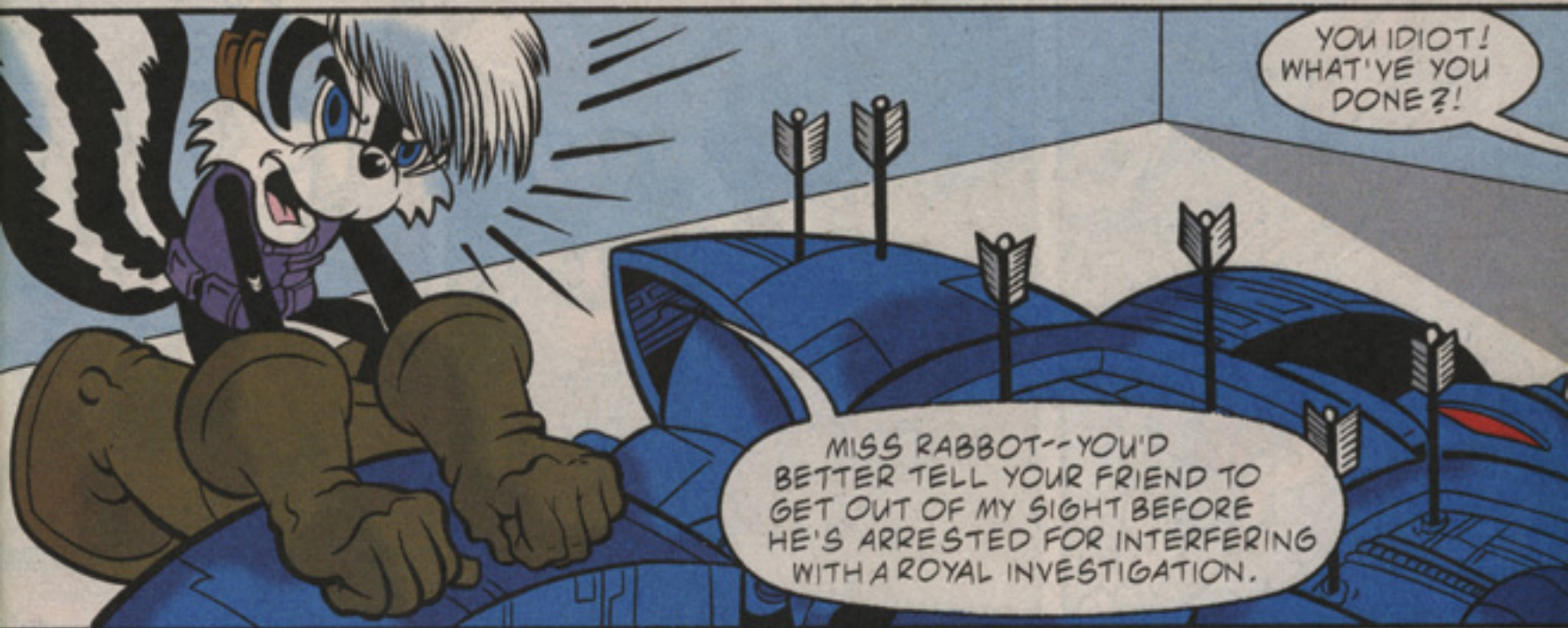
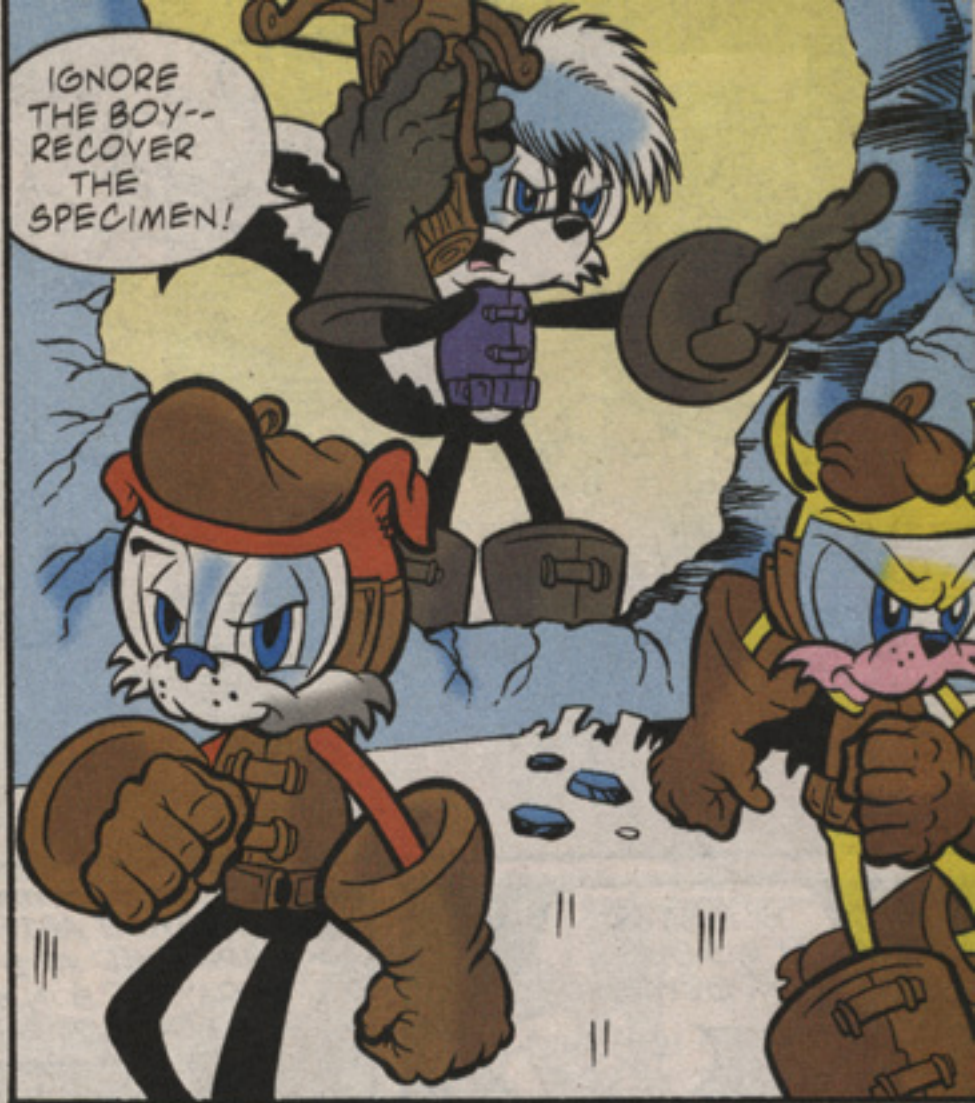


...YOU DON'T WANNA FIND OUT THE HARD WAY! LET'S JUICE!

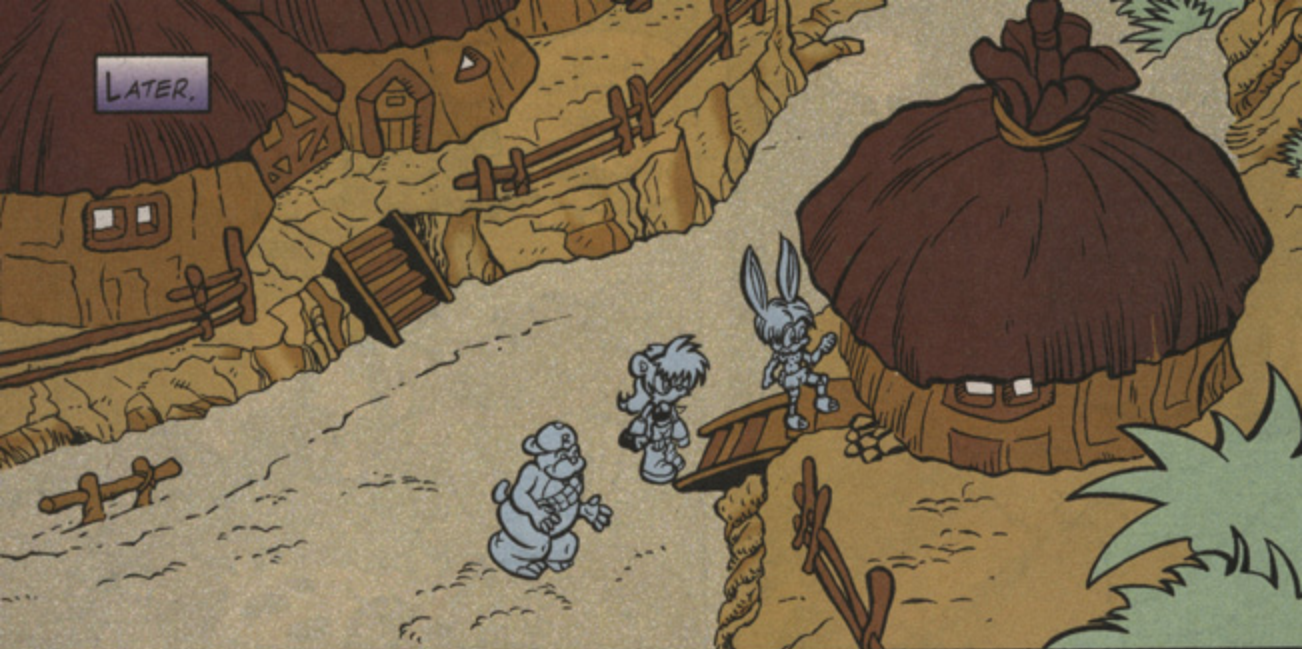








LATER.



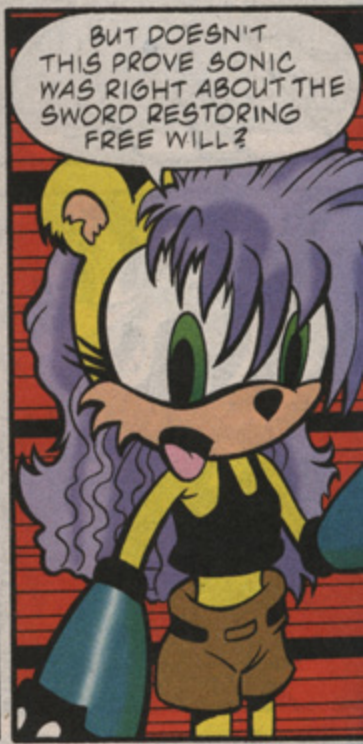
HI, MISTER
'N MISSUS
HEDGEHOG...

IS SONIC
HERE?



YES, BUT AFTER WHAT
HAPPENED AT SCHOOL
TODAY, HE'S IN NO MOOD
FOR COMPANY.

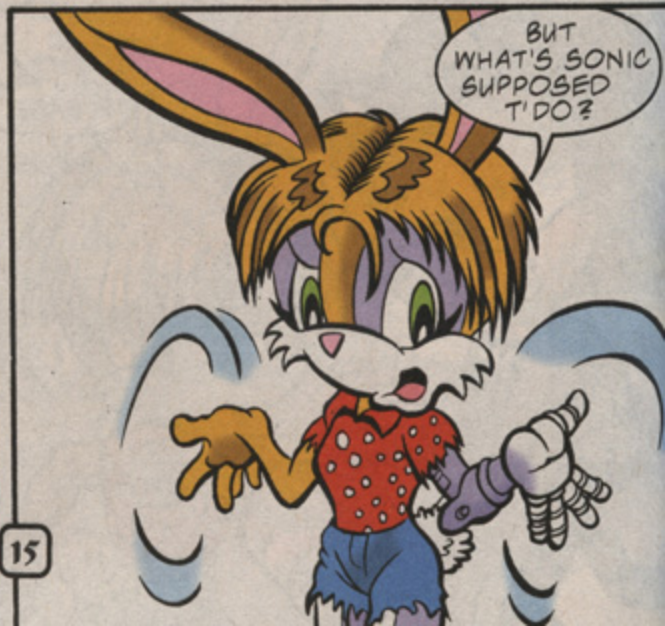
HE DIDN'T
EVEN COME OUT OF
HIS ROOM FOR
CHILI-DOGS!



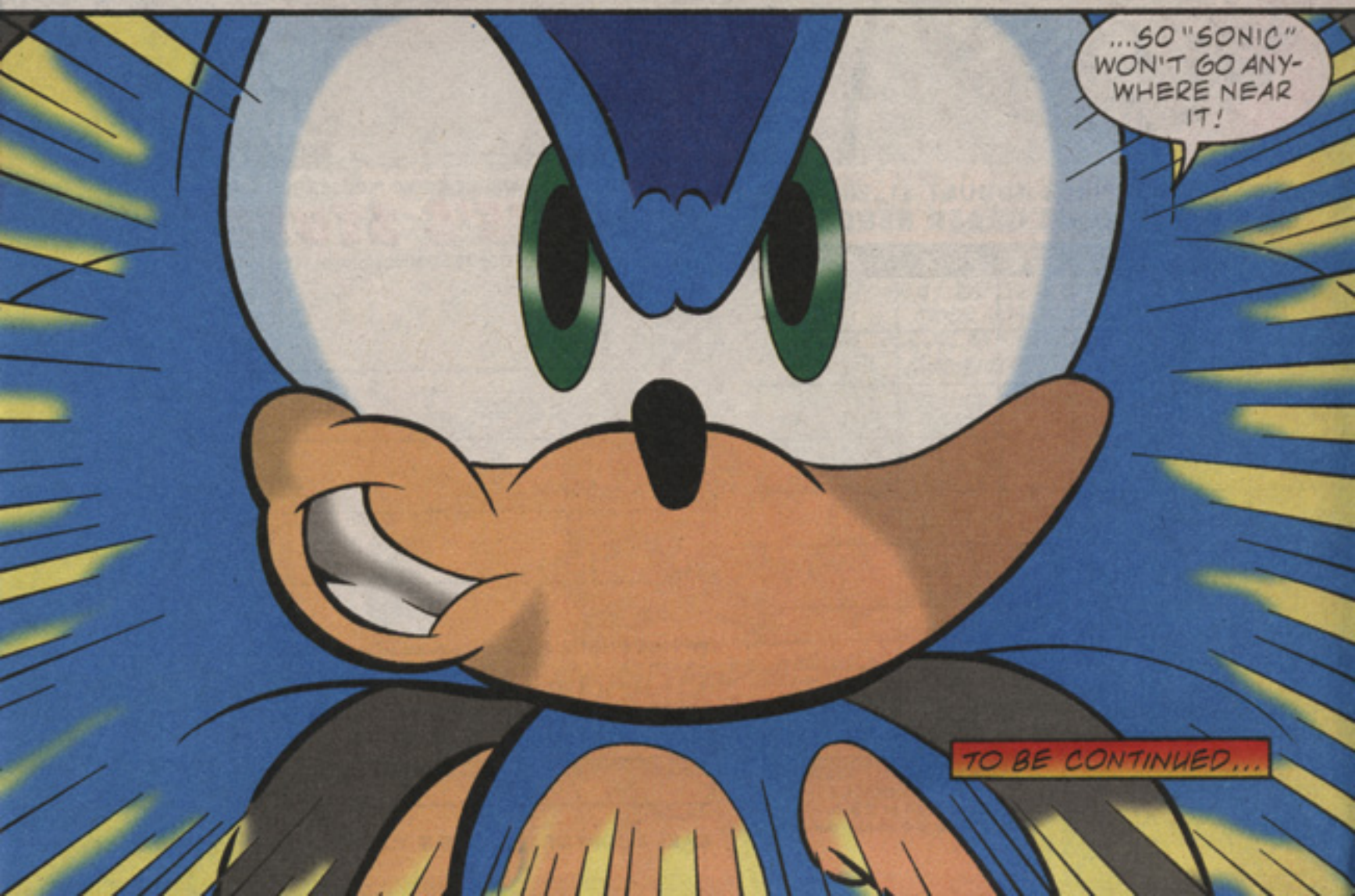
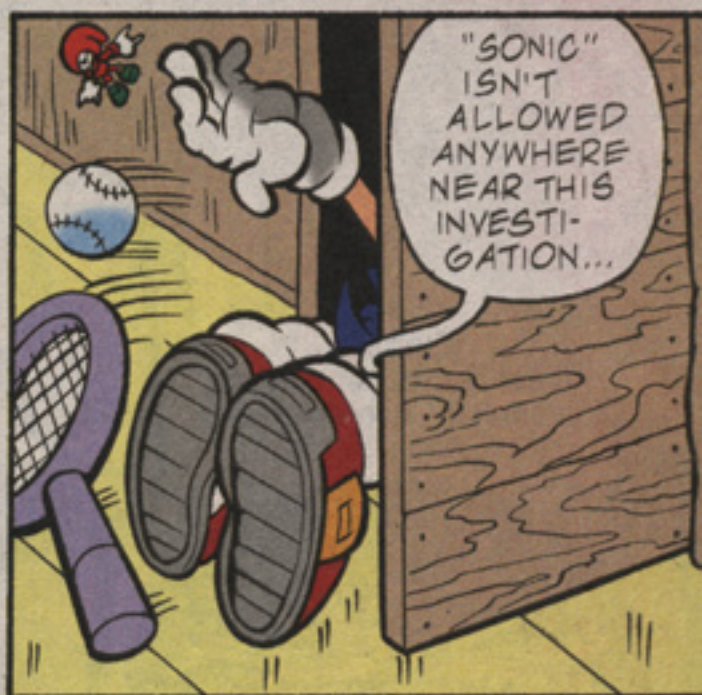
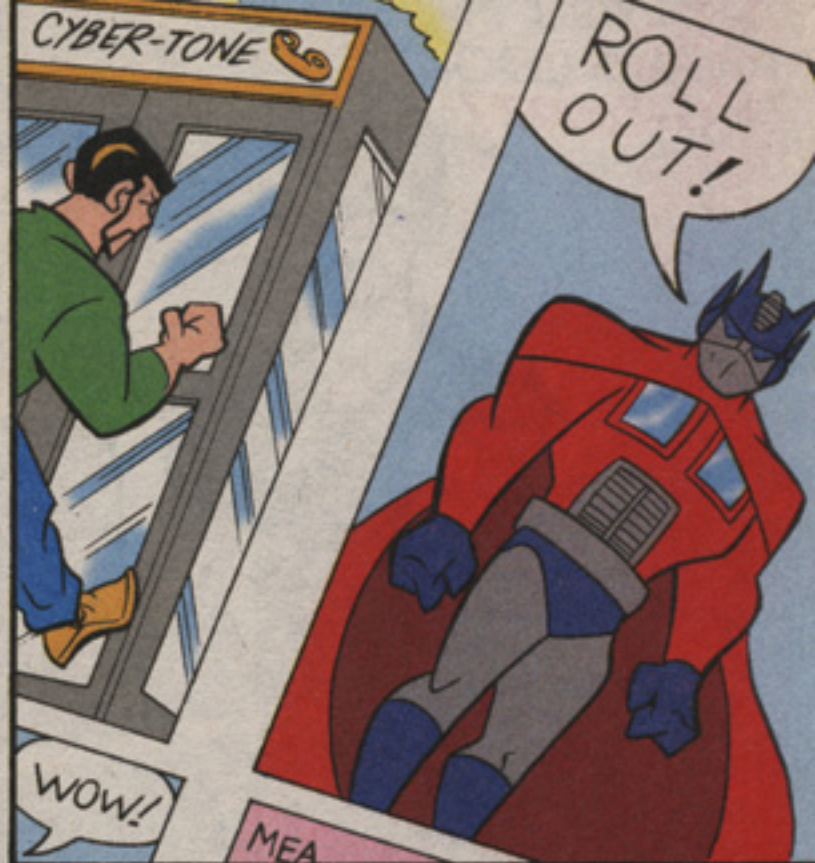
BUT DOESN'T
THIS PROVE SONIC
WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE
SWORD RESTORING
FREE WILL?



YES, BUT NOW IT'S
UP TO PRINCE ELIAS TO
DETERMINE WHAT
HAPPENS NEXT...



BUT
WHAT'S SONIC
SUPPOSED
T'DO?



Born to the most noble of Echidna houses, the latest to continue the family heritage and responsibility as Guardian of The Floating Island, defender of all against the forces of evil from the world beyond as well as those who would threaten from within!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

HE WAS BORN TO BE NONE OTHER THAN THE GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, BUT NOW

KNUCKLES™

IS EVOLVING INTO SOMETHING MORE--MUCH MORE--

--AND NO ONE YET KNOWS WHAT THAT COULD MEAN FOR EVERYONE WHO DWELLS ON THE PLANET MOBIUS!

MY NEPHEW LIES BEFORE ME UNCONSCIOUS, AT HAIR--

--AND ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!

WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?

THE BLAME IS MINE, BUT THAT DOESN'T DENY ONE PERTINENT FACT--

YOUNG MILES MAY BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE MY GREAT-GRANDSON!

The Chosen One

ANOTHER SEGA-INSPIRED STORY BY
KEN PENDERS (WRITER & INKER) RON LIM (PENCILLER) V. WILLIAMS (LETTERER)
FRANK GAGLIARDO (COLORIST) JUSTIN GABRIE (EDITOR)



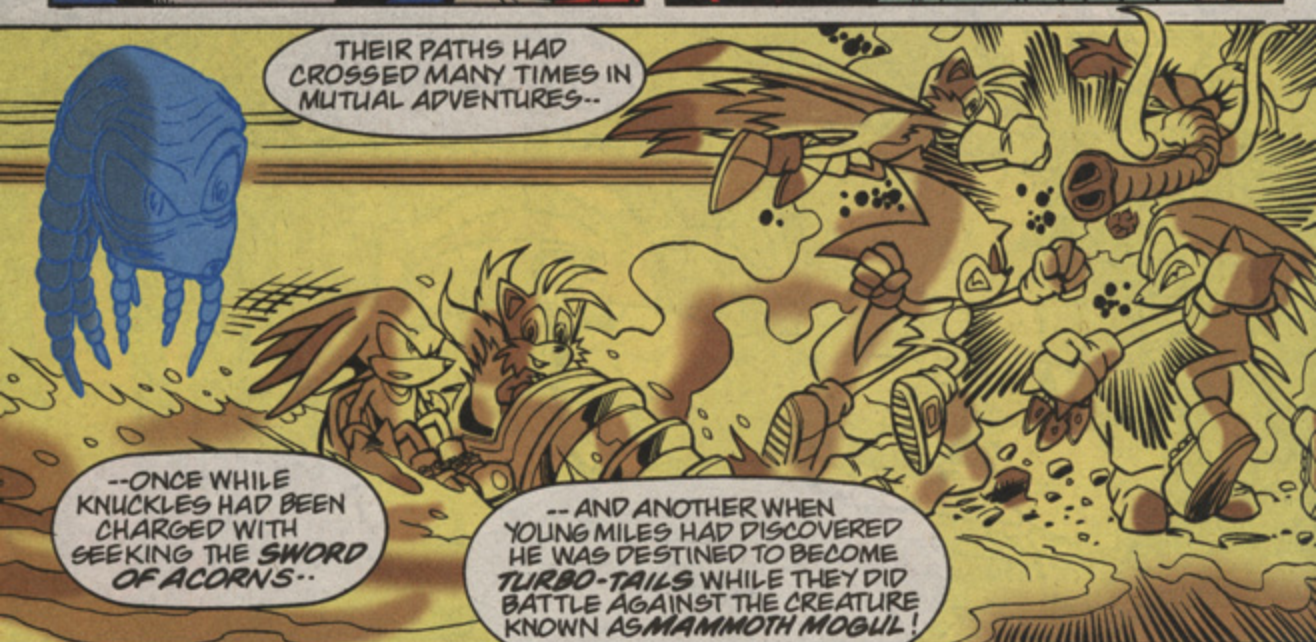
YOU MEAN **KNUCKLES**?
WHAT HAS HE TO DO WITH
ANY OF THIS?

HOW
IS HE
CONNECTED
WITH
MILES?



THERE ARE
BUT VERY FEW
THAT **KNUCKLES**
BEFRIENDS--

--AND
MILES HAPPENS
TO BE ONE OF
THEM!



THEIR PATHS HAD
CROSSED MANY TIMES IN
MUTUAL ADVENTURES--

--ONCE WHILE
KNUCKLES HAD BEEN
CHARGED WITH
SEEKING THE **SWORD
OF ACORNS**--

-- AND ANOTHER WHEN
YOUNG MILES HAD DISCOVERED
HE WAS DESTINED TO BECOME
TURBO-TAILS WHILE THEY DID
BATTLE AGAINST THE CREATURE
KNOWN AS **MAMMOTH MOGUL**!



MY GREAT-GRANDSON IS
SUFFERING BADLY--

--HIS DEVELOPMENT
ADVANCED THROUGH
**ARTIFICIAL
MEANS**--

-- ALONG
WITH THE
SEVERING OF
ALL **FAMILY
TIES** THROUGH
**NEFARIOUS
MEANS**!



HE IS IN NEED OF
HELP--AND A
FRIEND!

HOWEVER,
THE **DANGER** IS
GREATER THAN I
ANTICIPATED--

--AND
YOUNG **MILES**
MAY BE OUR ONLY
SALVATION!

YOU DON'T
MEAN--?!





NOTHING!

I'M
TOTALLY ALL
ALONE!



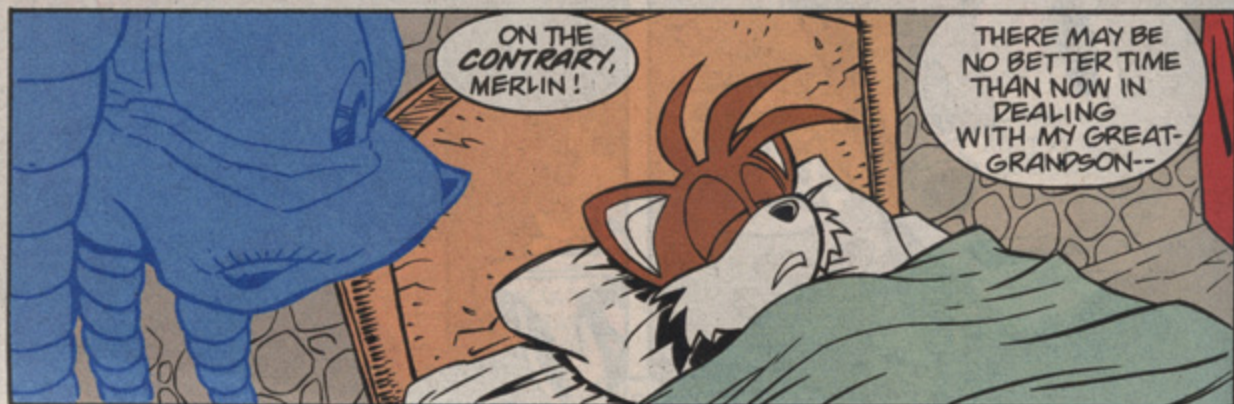
SO
TIRED.

MAYBE
IF I CAN
SLEEP...



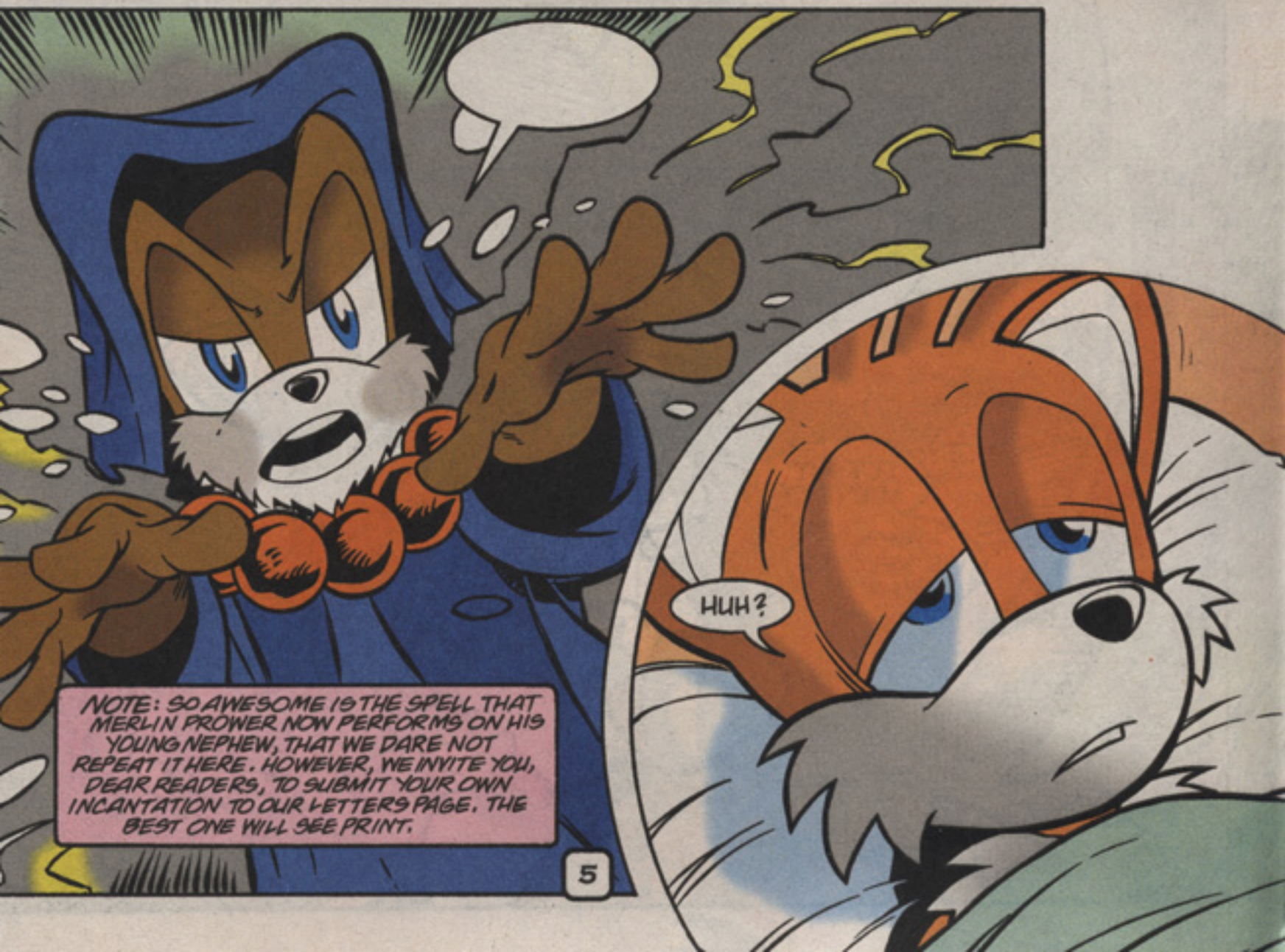
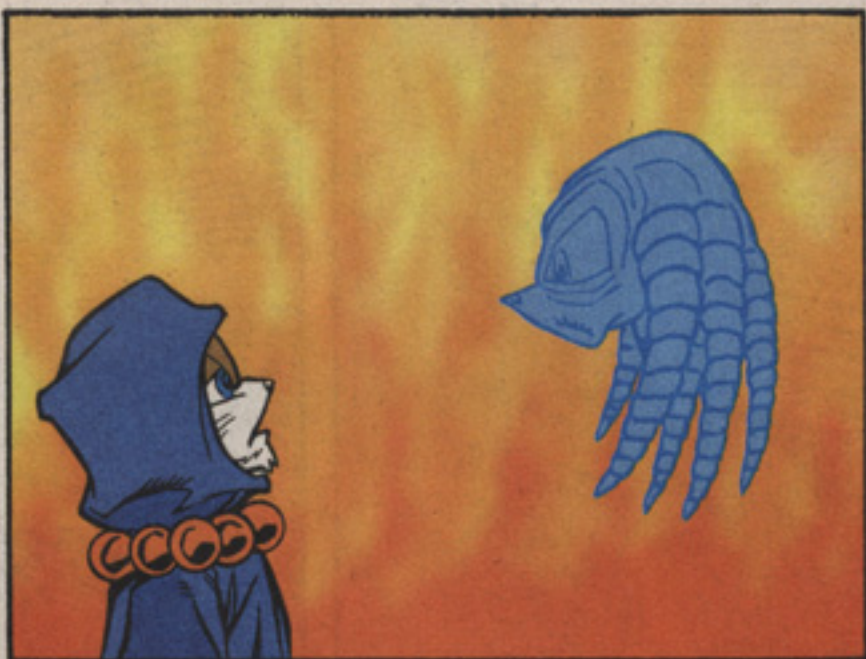
AND NOW--
NOTHING!

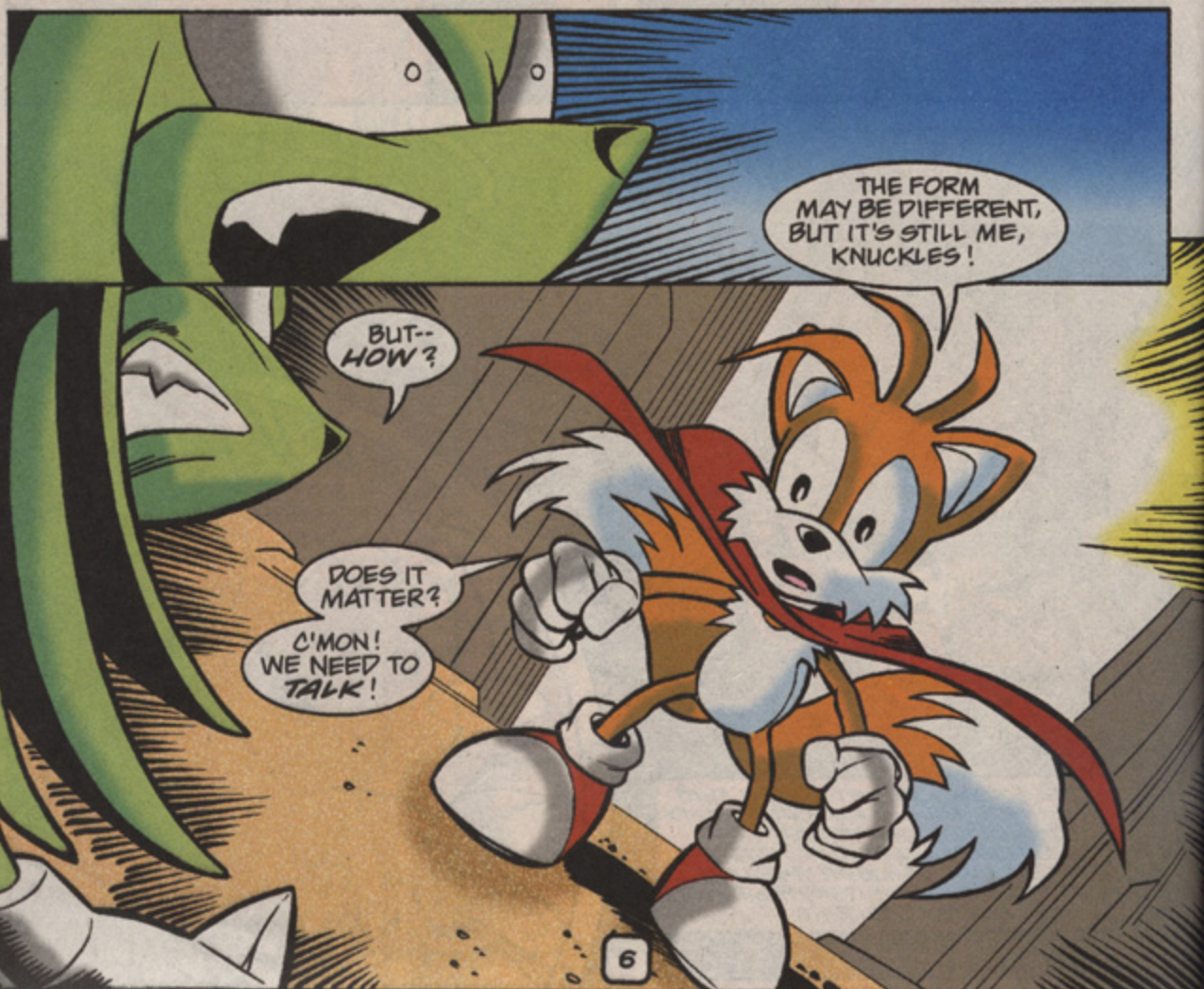
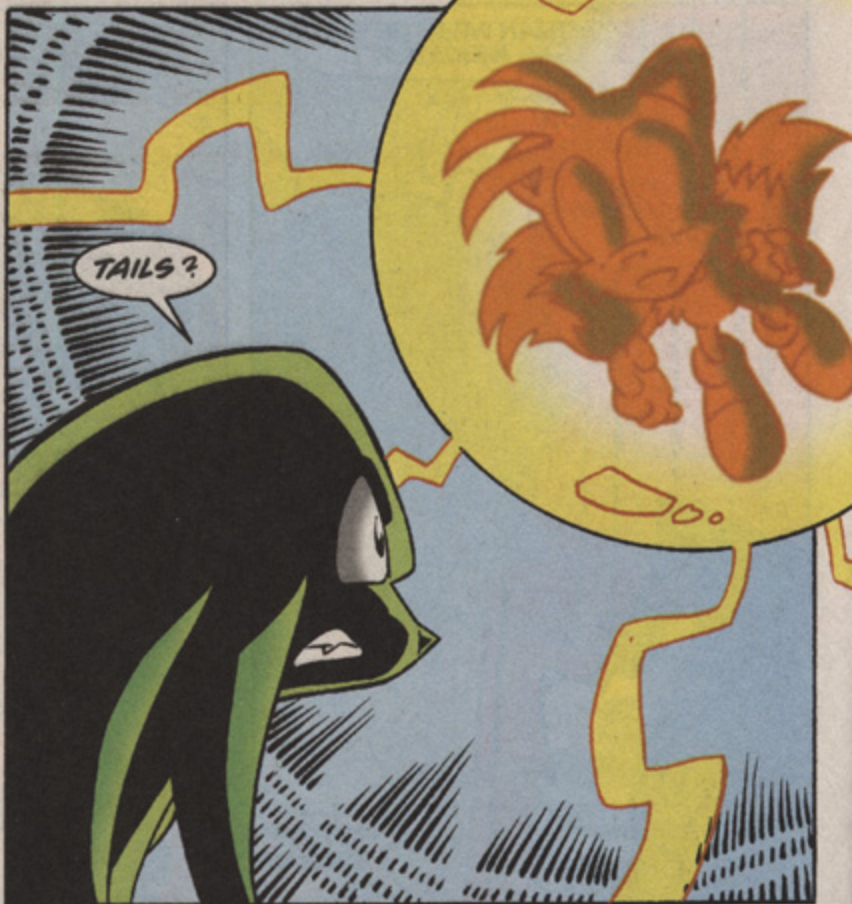
AREN'T YOU
CONCERNED,
ATHAIR?



ON THE
CONTRARY,
MERLIN!

THERE MAY BE
NO BETTER TIME
THAN NOW IN
DEALING
WITH MY GREAT-
GRANDSON--







YOU'RE NOT
HERE TO *HELP*
ME AT ALL, ARE
YOU?

WHAM!

WOOF!

I'M SORRY,
KNUCKLES--

--BUT I DON'T THINK
YOU CAN TELL *FRIEND* FROM
FOE RIGHT NOW!!

SAYS WHO?

ANY MUG WHO
DECKS ME SURE AIN'T
A FRIEND--

--SO YOU BETTER
GET READY TO
RUMBLE!!!

**NEXT: DEATHMATCH
ECHIDNA STYLE!!!
C-YA IN 30!!!**

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OFF PANEL by Gallagher, Manak & Amash

THIS JUST IN!

J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR

When you read this, the landmark 100th issue is only four months away. As I write this, however, we're already hard at work producing that book, and beginning preparations for what comes after, because — believe it or not — there will be an after. (To be honest, I've been dumbstruck by the fans who wrote asking if the 100th issue would be our last. As if! As long as you guys keep coming back for more, we'll keep producing.)

With that in mind, we've been giving a lot of thought of how to make the book more accessible to newer readers as well as satisfy the requests the older readers have made through the years, and we think we've come up with an answer. For years we've been discussing putting together a WHO'S WHO-type project, something with maps and diagrams and basic information about the characters and places featured in the series. And with issue #101, we're going to bite the bullet and present the first of an ongoing series.

That's right, every issue afterwards will feature two pages every month devoted to providing all the inside info readers are clamoring for, whether it's a layout of Knothole Village, or the inside scoop on Antoine and Bunnie or some other favorite character.

My problem, though, is figuring out which two items to start off with, and that's where you, our readers, come in. I'd like you to submit one character and one place you'd like to see featured. There's just one thing: if you pick a favorite character that usually shows up in the Sonic stories, then your place should be something from the Knuckles series, and vice versa. To clarify the term "place" even further, it could be a map of a city, a diagram of a building, or the layout of even a particular room. The character and place receiving the most votes will be the first ones featured.

Since I'm going to be putting these pages together, and since I'm going to be handling the letters pages as well, the best way to contact me — besides sending your cards and letters to Archie Comics, which in turn forwards them to me — is to send e-mail to Sonic@kenpenders.com. While I won't have time to make personal replies, I can guarantee you each and every piece of mail will get read and tabulated.

In the meantime, stay good and we'll see you back here next issue. Take care.

KeN

Send letters to:
SONIC-GRAMS
#96

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Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited.
Thanks for understanding!

COMING ATTRACTIONS



#96

Next issue:

Sonic figures out a way to leave Knothole without being recognized by anyone he knows. His mission is simple: find Arachnis and the Sword of Acorns. Well, why doesn't it seem so simple at all? "My Secret Identity" is written by Karl Bollers, penciled by Nelson Ribeiro and Harvey Mercadoocasio, with inks by Ken Penders and Pam Eklund! And be sure not to miss the conclusion of Knuckles & Tails in "The Chosen One," written by Ken Penders, penciled by Ron Lim, with inks by Pam Eklund. SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #97 is on sale in May of 2001!

It's time again for Sonic-Grams, dear readers, so let's hear what some of you had to say:

Dear Archie Comics,

I have been nuts about Sonic and Knuckles for just over half my life. I spend my time creating my own characters, drawing the original ones, and writing stories based upon both for my own enjoyment, as well as faithfully catching the comic every month. Back when it started, I was mostly a fan of the Saturday morning TV show and kept collecting the comics in the hopes that it would eventually get to the same level as that of the show. I'm happy to say that the comic has most definitely not only met the same high standards that the show put up, but has surpassed those standards many times over. Now, however, it seems we're backtracking. As of late, more than one story has been put into each issue. While this is all well and good, allowing for more perspectives and new information per issue, it seems to me that the stories are becoming a bit rushed. Everything happens too quickly because of lack of space to cram all the extra action and information, and much of the story quality is lost. With the loss of the KNUCKLES comic, and the plan to put both storylines in the same issues, I'm

beginning to wonder if maybe it's not such a great idea. My small group of fellow Sonic fans have been wondering if something could be done to solve the dilemma and bring the comic to its former glory? I hope so. I don't expect this letter to be printed in the comic because of the millions of letters you already receive, but since each letter is read, I'll know that my little message wasn't futile.
Meghan Taylor, CANADA

You think we get millions of letters, Meghan?! No, we get BILLIONS of letters! But, we eventually read yours, so don't fret. First off, we'd like to say we appreciate your loyalty as a true fan of Sonic and Knuckles. Your letter was both thought-provoking and heartfelt. Sometimes transition, à la KNUCKLES into the back-up feature slot, isn't as smooth as we would like it to be. We hope that you and your crew have been enjoying SONIC as of late, though. Drop us another line again. We'd really like to know...

Dear Sonic-Grams,

The name's Mel, and I love Sonic! 1) How does Knuckles glide? I mean, he's an echidna for goodness' sake! And 2) Why is Tails called the Chosen One? Well, time to go. You guys are awesome with the SONIC comic! Mel St. John, West Chazy, NY

Always trying eagerly to please, Mel. Hope you enjoyed our latest issue. To answer your questions: 1) Knuckles' father, Locke—a former guardian—conducted mutating experiments on his infant son. Flight was only one of the many abilities Knuckles gained as a result. 2) Tails is referred to as the Chosen One because of a grand destiny he will someday fulfill (maybe even next issue!).

Dear Sonic Team,

I really liked SEGA Dreamcast's SONIC ADVENTURE game. Some questions: 1) Will there be any new villains in the SONIC ADVENTURE 2 game? 2) Will Knuckles ever star in his own cartoon? 3) Will Doctor Robotnik and Chaos be in SONIC ADVENTURE 2?
Richard Flores Jr., Houston, TX

We hope you'll enjoy "SONIC ADVENTURE 2" as much as you did the previous game, Richard! 1) Don't want to give too much away, but there will be at least two new villains in SA2. 2) That would be really cool, but we haven't heard anything about plans for such a cartoon. 3) Chaos won't be in "SONIC ADVENTURE 2," but as for Robotnik...well, you'll just have to wait and see!

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I love your Sonic comic! Can you answer my questions? 1) Was SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS KNUCKLES

#1, the very first KNUCKLES comic? 2) Who is this new guy pretending to be Robotnik? 3) How does Dulcy the dragon always hear Sonic by his call—he could be miles and miles away from her.
James Deal, Ashburn, VA

You love our comic, James, and we love answering your questions: 1) SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS KNUCKLES #1 was indeed the first comic to feature ol' redlocks flying solo. 2) The new guy pretending to be Robotnik isn't pretending at all—he's a Robotnik from an alternate zone/reality. 3) Using his super-speed, Sonic utters a high-pitched whine at a frequency which Dulcy is able to hear from miles distant.

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I am a true blue SONIC fan who's been reading since issue #49. Even though I knew very little about the character back then, I was very disinclined to believe that he'd kill Princess Sally. So I placed all my suspicions on Doctor Quack (Well, I was half-right...). Anyway, I only have one question, and here it is: Why don't you reprint back issue comics? I realize that the original comics may decrease in value, but if you marked "reprint" on the cover or somewhere inside (so as to distinguish between the originals and the reprints) that would solve the dilemma.
Sarah E. Strobel, Yellville, AR

Have you sneaked a peek at our subscriptions page lately, Sarah? Our SONIC & KNUCKLES COLLECTOR SETS hardcovers each contain twelve consecutive issues of our comics.

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I just wanted to know if "Knuckles 20 Years later" and "Knuckles & Tails- Chosen One" would become part of current stories, and whether the next SEGA game would have its own comic book adaptation. I sure hope issue #100 will be a blast! Heck, it should be. I love you guys and gals at Archie and the stories you create. Anyone who buys this comic, whether kid or adult, would like it so much if you didn't kill off—repeat: do not kill off—the new Robotnik in #100.
Tommy G, Colorado Springs, CO.

Hope you enjoyed part two of "The Chosen One" featuring Knuckles & Tails in this very issue, Tommy! And you'll be glad to know that we'll be adapting SEGA Dreamcast's "SONIC ADVENTURE 2" in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #98.

Whoa. Great batch of letters. But that's all we're able to cram into such a tiny space this month! So thanks for writing, everyone, and 'til next time...
KEEP ON JUICIN'!

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